

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Leave No Parent Behind: Legislation Introduced in the Assembly to Involve Immigrant Parents in Their Children's Education**

SACRAMENTO – AB 590, sponsored by Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) and authored by Assembly Member Jose Solorio, was introduced yesterday to make progress in education by improving involvement of limited English proficient (LEP) parents in their children's education.

Studies illustrate the positive impact of parental involvement on academic achievement. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grade point averages and scores; enroll in more challenging programs; pass more classes and earn more credits; attend school regularly; and have better social skills. However, language barriers can prevent LEP parents from becoming full participants in their children's education. Of California's 6.3 million public school students, 2.7 million, or nearly 43 percent, speak a primary language other than English at home. Without adequate interpretation services or bilingual staff, LEP parents cannot communicate with educators at critical events, such as parent teacher conferences, potentially creating negative educational consequences for their children.

AB 590 will provide matching grants to a pilot number of school districts so that they can develop a system for communicating with LEP parents and involving them in their children's education.

"I know LEP parents are deeply committed to being involved in their children's schools and in their education," remarks Christina Wong, Policy Advocate of CAA | Center for Asian American Advocacy. "It is not appropriate for schools to rely on children to communicate information about their academic performance and behavior to their parents."

"Parental involvement is a key component of academic success," cites Bonnie Tang, Staff Attorney of Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "With over 2.7 million public school students living in households languages other than English are spoken, it is imperative that information is provided in a manner understood by their parents. In schools that do provide interpretation services, we have seen dramatic increases in parental involvement."

"Improving communication with LEP parents is incredibly important for immigrant communities throughout the state," said Gen Fujioka, Director of Programs of Asian Law Caucus. "We want to thank Assembly Member Jose Solorio for his leadership in addressing this issue."

*AACRE is a joint partnership between CAA | Center for Asian American Advocacy, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and Asian Law Caucus, dedicated to bringing a voice for APAs to the state capitol.*

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